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Augusta House

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Chronology of the Augusta House Hotel

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THE HISTORY OF THE AUGUSTA HOUSE

- 1831 Augusta House built to relieve congestion due to first Legislature in Augusta. Built by "enterprising citizens" headed by Ruel Williams. Thomas Stevens first proprietor.
- 1832 January 2--A dinner for one hundred and sixty held at the Augusta House in honor of "mechanics employed in building public buildings in Augusta" and other gentlemen. The table is described as "exceedingly well provided"; "a good spirit seemed to prevail", and "the evening was spent in great glee".
- 1833 The popular Augusta Assemblies were held at the Augusta House. This Augusta institution, which started first in 1807, moved to the Capital city's new hostelry.
- 1844 Political year changed from first Wednesday in January to second Wednesday in May, 1844 election, by amendment of Constitution.
- 1851 This move made to facilitate travel to and from session. Changed back to original date in 1851, because legislators couldnot do Spring planting. At this time Augusta House was run on a Seasonal Basis.
- 1861 Civil War Years. Augusta Hotel population very high. Necessary to furnish further accommodations. Major Baker consented to sell his interest in Augusta House to corporation seeking new hotel site for \$16,000. New Augusta House opened January 1, 1865.
- 1854 Major Harrison Baker purchased Augusta House and made extensive alterations. Considered a first class hotel.
- 1867 J. M. Kling succeeded Major Baker as manager of the Augusta House. He remained in that position for 15 months.
- 1868 Guy Turner new proprietor of Augusta House.
- 1869 Major Baker resumed the management of the Augusta House and continued to run it through the years 1870-'74. It is not known when the management of the hotel changed; but in--
- 1880 Legislature changed to a biennial term by amendment to the Constitution as of September 13, 1880. This was a blow to bussiness in Augusta hotels. Between 1888 and 1910, the popularity of the Augusta House suffered an eclipse. Other local hotels were in ascendancy at that time.
- 1884 The Augusta House was under the management of Charles Milliken.
- & 1885 During 1886-1887 Mr. Milliken was still in charge of the Augusta House.
- 1892 The Augusta House under new management. New Proprietor was Albert W. Thayer.
- 1894 An added feature is given in the Augusta House advertising--
- & 1895 "Electric cars pass every fifteen minutes".

- 1897 Augusta House under same management.
& 1898
- 1899 The Augusta House under a new management. H. E. Capen was
& 1900 new manager
- 1900 Continuously under same management. This was not a prosperous
to 1910 period for the Augusta House.
- 1910 Due to inadequate hotel accommodations, outside interests sought to have the Capitol of the State moved to Portland. At this time, under the direction of Charles S. Hichborn, prominent banker, further alterations were made in the Augusta House and some 60 rooms were added. At that time, the hotel property was owned by a group of about twenty citizens. The hotel management was again changed. Wilbur T. Emerson was the new manager. The management remained the same until 1919, but in
- 1917 The corporation owning the Augusta House changed hands. This time the organization was headed by Walter Scott Wyman and Francis B. Puriton. Mr. Emerson terminated his affiliation with the hotel in 1918.
- 1919 Saw a new manager, Henry T. Bridges.
- 1921 Another new manager, William S. Marble. Mr. Marble served in this capacity for two years. He was replaced in
1923 By Faye C. Gates who occupied this position until 1939.
- 1939 January 1, E. F. Lampkin, well known hotel man bought the Augusta House property for a sum not less than \$90,000. W. E. Lee was new manager. He had formerly been with the De Witt Hotel in Lewiston. During the Spring and Summer of 1939, extensive repairs were made in the hotel; a cocktail lounge was added; and extensive modern improvements were made.
- 1941 The Augusta House was leased by James M. Acheson on a Twenty Year Lease and became one of the famous Acheson Chain of Maine Hotels. It, at the present, has a staff of around 90 employees on full or part time basis. The Augusta House still maintains its old-fashioned brand of Main Hospitality and Good Meals. Let it be your headquarters Summer or Winter to insure you of adequate accommodations. A hotel with 118 years of continuous service to the public must have something to offer you.

cwg

BY

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